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## 7 Reasons Why You Really Do Need Wall Sconces for the Living Room

By [Laura Lambert](#) | September 4, 2019

[Lighting](#) is a designer's secret weapon, but most regular folks don't think enough about it. They'll put [recessed cans](#) in the ceiling and call it a day.

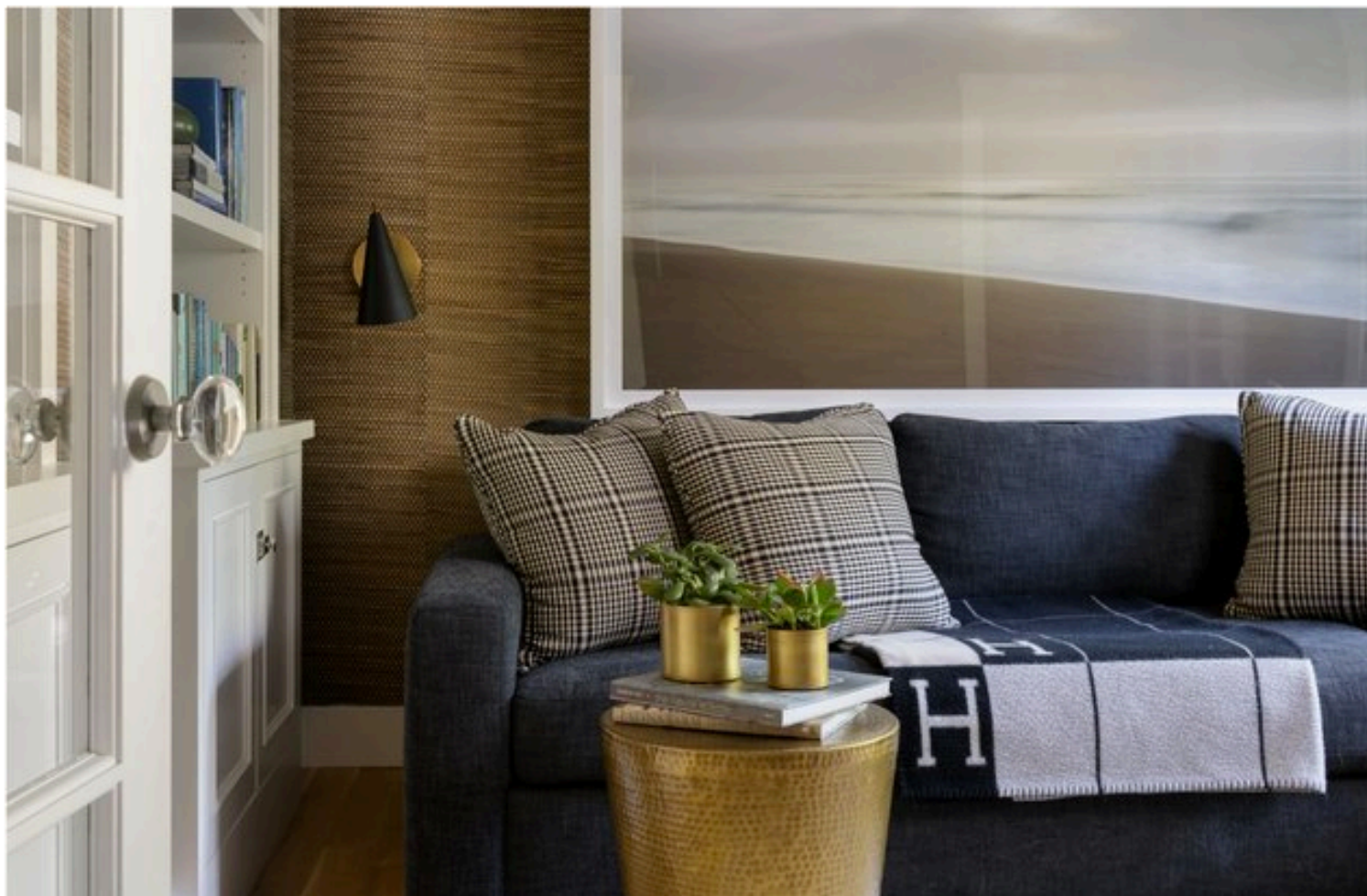
What a waste, says Bay Area interior designer [Alison Pickart](#).

"Downlight is not the most attractive lighting," she explains. "When you're thinking about your space and what's inviting and attractive, having [ambient lighting](#) around the perimeter of the room is the ideal. It's the most attractive when it comes to how people in the room look."

If the [living room](#) is where you talk, have wine, read by the [fire](#), or simply *live*, you don't need what Pickart calls a "landing strip" of lights. Wall sconces in the living room, in particular, create mood and intimacy and bring light just where you need it.

Here are a few different ways to approach it.

## 1. Try a Sophisticated Reading Light for Small Spaces



credit: Aaron Leitz for Alison Pickart

This sconce was born out of necessity. There wasn't really room for a table lamp in the petite living room, says Pickart. So she placed this black and brass sconce fairly low, at about 48 inches from the floor, with a low-watt bulb. "It's a great reading lamp," she says. "Very chic."